

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT M 01334 210607Z
ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2630
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 1334

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG ETRD UN PP KN KS
SUBJ: ROK

REF: STATE 205678

1. SUMMARY: A WELL-PUBLICIZED BUT RELATIVELY SHORT-LIVED ROK PRESENCE CAME INTO BEING IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA ON SEPT 8 WITH THE OPENING OF A LARGE KOREAN TRADE EXHIBITION AND A NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION HOSTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE KOREA TRADE PROMOTION CORPORATION AND THE ROK AMBASSADOR, WHO CAME FROM JAKARTA FOR THE OCCASION. OBSERVERS HERE SAID THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S PARTICIPATION IN THE OPENING AND THE PRIME MINISTER'S PRESENCE AT THE RECEPTION CONTRASTED SHARPLY WITH TREATMENT GIVEN THE NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR SOME TIME AGO. A SENIOR FONOFF OFFICIAL TOLD US THAT THE ROK AMBASSADOR HAD TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF HIS TRIP ALSO TO REQUEST PNG SUPPORT (PRESUMABLY IN A STATEMENT) FOR SOUTH KOREA AT THE 32ND UNGA. END SUMMARY.

2. GROK, REPRESENTED BY AMBASSADOR JAE SUL LEE, WHO CAME FROM JAKARTA FOR THE OCCASION, AND PRESIDENT SUN WHAN CHANG OF THE KOREA TRADE PROMOTION PROMOTION CORPORATION, MADE A SIZABLE TRADE AND DIPLOMATIC EFFORT IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA FOR SEVERAL DAYS STARTING ON SEPT 8. THE TWO LED A LARGE ENTOURAGE,
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INCLUDING A DANCE GROUP, WHICH OPENED A KOREAN TRADE EXHIBITION WHICH RAN THROUGH SEPT 17.

3. THE WELL-ATTENDED TRADE SHOW WAS FAIRLY WELL SUITED TO THE PNG MARKET, SHOWING HAND TOOLS, TILLERS, AND WHEELBARROWS, AS WELL AS CONSUMER GOODS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES WHICH COULD GO WELL HERE. TV SETS IN A COUNTRY WITH NO TV AND 110 V APPLIANCES IN A

240 V AREA WERE EXCEPTIONS TO AN OTHERWISE GOOD SHOW.

4. MORE IMPORTANT TO US THAN THE TRADE SHOW WERE OTHER ASPECTS OF THE ROK EFFORT. DIPLOMATS HERE DURING THE VISIT SOME TIME AGO OF THE NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR SAW A SHARP CONTRAST. WHILE THE NORTH KOREAN DID NOT EVEN GET TO SEE SEVERAL IMPORTANT PNG OFFICIALS HE HAD ATTEMPTED TO CALL ON, THE SOUTH KOREANS WERE PERMITTED TO MOUNT A MASSIVE (FOR PNG) PUBLICITY EFFORT, THE EXHIBITION OPENING WAS ATTENDED BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS AND ENTERTAINED BY THE CONSTABULARY BAND. ON THE EVENING OF THE 8TH, THE TWO SENIOR ROK REPRESENTATIVES HOSTED A NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION ATTENDED BY PRIME MINISTER SOMARE, A NUMBER CABINET MINISTERS AND OTHERS, AGAIN IN CONTRAST TO TREATMENT RECEIVED BY THE NORTH KOREAN. SOMARE LIMITED HIS PUBLIC REMARKS TO RETURNING THE NORMAL TOAST TO THE CHIEF OF STATE.

5. A SENIOR FONOFF OFFICIAL TOLD THE AMBASSADOR ON SEPT 13 THAT THE SOUTH KOREANS WERE PUSHING FOR A STATEMENT BY PNG AT THE 32ND UNGA ON THE KOREA ISSUE, INCLUDING A CALL FOR DIALOGUE AND UNIFICATION AND OPPOSING A PULL-OUT FORCES. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER LEE WAS ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS OR GOING OFF ON HIS OWN TO SEEK A QUID PRO QUO FOR THE EFFORT AND EXPENSE HIS GOVERNMENT PUT IN THIS LIMITED MARKET. THE FMNOFF OFFICIAL SAID HE MIGHT WORK A FEW PHRASES ON THE FIRST TWO POINTS (BUT ON ON A PULL-OUT) IN TO THE ADDRESS THE PRIME MINISTER WILL MAKE AT THE UNGA AND LEAVE IT AT THAT. WE THOUGHT THIS WORTHY OF MENTION IN THE EVENT
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THE ROK MIGHT, WITHOUT THE DEPT'S KNOWLEDGE, BE DOING SOME LOBBYING WHICH COULD, IN TURN, PROMPT AN UNWANTED NORTH KOREAN INITIATIVE.
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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE PROMOTION, TRADE FAIRS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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ISecure: 1
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